

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown in the following Listing of Claims.

1. **(currently amended)** A parking brake actuator for a motor vehicle, said parking brake actuator comprising, in combination:

a fixed support;

a lever pivotably connected to said support for movement between brake-releasing and brake-engaging positions;

a locking mechanism adapted to releasably maintain said lever in said brake-engaging position;

an electrical switch having a blade operable to indicate when said lever is out of said brake-releasing position; and

wherein said switch blade is secured directly to said fixed support;

wherein said switch is located near a mounting hole formed in the fixed support which receives a fastener to secure the fixed support to the motor vehicle; and

wherein said switch extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener in the mounting hole to connect the switch to ground; and

wherein operation of the electrical switch opens an electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-releasing position and closes the electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-engaging position.

2. **(original)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 1, wherein said fixed support forms a unitary mounting bracket for securing said switch blade to the fixed support.

3. **(original)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 2, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said switch blade to secure the switch blade to the fixed support.

4. **(original)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 2, wherein said fixed support and said unitary mounting bracket are molded of plastic.

5. **(original)** The parking brake actuator according to claim 2, wherein said mounting bracket secures a terminal of the switch to the fixed support.

6. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 5, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said terminal to secure the terminal to the fixed support.

7. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 1, wherein said switch includes a terminal secured directly to said fixed support.

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 1, wherein said switch is secured to said fixed support without mechanical fasteners.

11. (currently amended) A parking brake actuator for a motor vehicle, said parking brake actuator comprising, in combination:

a fixed support;

a lever pivotably connected to said support for movement between brake-releasing and brake-engaging positions;

a locking mechanism adapted to releasably maintain said lever in said brake-engaging position;

an electrical switch having a blade operable to indicate when said lever is out of said brake-releasing position;

wherein said fixed support forms a unitary mounting bracket for securing said switch blade to the fixed support;

wherein said fixed support and said unitary mounting bracket are molded of plastic;

wherein said switch is located near a mounting hole formed in the fixed support which receives a fastener to secure the fixed support to the motor vehicle; and

wherein said switch extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener in the mounting hole to connect the switch to ground; and

wherein operation of the electrical switch opens an electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-releasing position and closes the electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-engaging position.

12. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 11, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said switch blade to secure the switch blade to the fixed support.

13. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 11, wherein said mounting bracket secures a terminal of the switch to the fixed support.

14. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 13, wherein said unitary mounting bracket forms a slot for receiving a portion of said terminal to secure the terminal to the fixed support.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 11, wherein said switch is secured to said fixed support without mechanical fasteners.

18. (original) A parking brake actuator for a motor vehicle, said parking brake actuator comprising, in combination:

a fixed support;

a lever pivotably connected to said support for movement between brake-releasing and brake-engaging positions;

a locking mechanism adapted to releasably maintain said lever in said brake-engaging position;

an electrical switch operable to indicate when said lever is out of said brake-releasing position;

wherein said switch is located near a mounting hole formed in the fixed support which receives a fastener to secure the fixed support to the motor vehicle; and

wherein said switch extends to the mounting hole to contact the fastener in the mounting hole to connect the switch to ground; and

wherein operation of the electrical switch opens an electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-releasing position and closes the electric circuit including the fastener when the lever is in the brake-engaging position.

19. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 18, wherein said fixed support forms a unitary mounting bracket for securing a switch blade of the switch to the fixed support and wherein said fixed support and said unitary mounting bracket are molded of plastic.

20. (original) The parking brake actuator according to claim 18, wherein said switch is secured to said fixed support without mechanical fasteners.